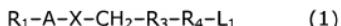


Please amend claims 1 and 11.

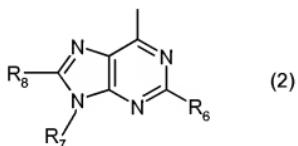
In the claims

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (1)



wherein

the group R_1-A is a purine radical of formula (2)



X is oxygen;

R_1 is a group $-R_2-L_2$;

R_2 and R_4 are, independently of each other, a straight or branched chain alkylene group or polyvalent branched chain alkyl group with 1 to 300 carbon atoms, optionally substituted by a lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower acyloxy or halogen wherein optionally

- (a) one or more carbon atoms are replaced by oxygen;
- (b) one or more carbon atoms are replaced by nitrogen carrying a hydrogen atom, and the adjacent carbon atom is substituted by oxo;
- (c) one or more carbon atoms are replaced by oxygen, and the adjacent carbon atom is substituted by oxo;

(d) the bond between two adjacent carbon atoms is a double or a triple bond;

(e) one or more carbon atoms are replaced by a phenylene, a saturated or unsaturated cycloalkylene, a saturated or unsaturated bicycloalkylene, a divalent heteroaromatic or a divalent saturated or unsaturated heterocycl group;

(f) two adjacent carbon atoms are replaced by a disulfide linkage;

or a combination of two or more alkylene and/or modified alkylene groups as defined under (a) to (f) hereinbefore;

R₃ is an aromatic or a heteroaromatic group, or an optionally substituted 1-alkylene, 1-alkynylene, 1-cycloalkenylene, or an unsaturated heterocycl group with the double bond connected to CH₂;

R₆ is hydrogen, hydroxy or unsubstituted amino; one of R₇ or R₈ is R₁ and the other one is hydrogen; and

L₁ and L₂ are the same or different labels and each is selected from the group consisting of a fluorophore or a chromophore, a magnetic probe, a contrast reagent, a radioactive moiety, avidin, streptavidin, biotin, a moiety which is capable of crosslinking to other molecules selected from a maleimide, an activated carboxy group, an azide and a benzophenone; a tethered metal-chelate which is capable of generating hydroxyl radicals upon exposure to H₂O₂, ascorbate, malachite green, a solid support, a lipid, methotrexate, a linear poly(arginine) of D- and/or L-arginine with 6-15 arginine residues, oligomers of 6-50 subunits wherein at least one subunit has an attached guanidine group or a peptide having an RKKRRQRRR amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:1); or

L₁ is a bond connecting R₄ to A forming a cyclic substrate; a further group -R₃-CH₂-X-A-R₁; or a nucleic acid or a derivative thereof capable of undergoing base-pairing with its complementary strand; or if R₇ is a hydrogen then L₂ is capable of undergoing base-pairing with its complementary strand where L₂ is a nucleic acid ~~or a peptide nucleic acid.~~

2. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R₃ is phenylene, an unsubstituted or substituted mono- or bicyclic divalent heteroaryl group of 5 or 6 rings atoms comprising zero, one, two, three or four ring nitrogen atoms and zero or one oxygen atom and zero or one sulfur atom, with the proviso that at least one ring carbon atom is replaced by a nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur atom, 1-alkenylene, 1-alkinylene, 1-cyclohexenylene with 3 to 7 carbon atoms, wherein the double or triple bond is connected to CH₂, or an optionally substituted unsaturated divalent heterocycl group with 3 to 12 atoms and 1 to 5 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, and a double bond in the position connecting the heterocycl group to CH₂.

3. (cancelled)

4. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R₃ is phenylene.

5. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R₃ is thiophenylene.

6. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R₆ is unsubstituted amino, R₇ is R₁, and R₈ is hydrogen.
7. (cancelled)
8. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 7, wherein L₂ is a fluorophore or a chromophore.
9. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 7, wherein L₁ is a fluorophore or a chromophore and L₂ is a fluorophore or a chromophore.
10. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 9, wherein L₁ is a fluorescence donor and L₂ is a fluorescence quencher or L₁ is a fluorescence quencher and L₂ is a fluorescence donor.
11. (currently amended) The compound according to claim 9-10, wherein L₁ and L₂ constitute a FRET pair.
- 12-13. (cancelled)
14. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R₆ is unsubstituted amino, R₇ is hydrogen, and R₈ is R₁.
15. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R₆ is unsubstituted amino, R₇ is hydrogen, and R₈ is a group - R₂-L₂.

16. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 15, wherein L₂ is a fluorophore or a chromophore.
17. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 16, wherein L₁ is a fluorophore or a chromophore.
18. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 17, wherein L₁ and L₂ constitute a fluorescence donor or a fluorescence quencher.
19. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 18, wherein L₁ and L₂ constitute a donor or an acceptor in a FRET pair.
20. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 15, wherein L₂ is avidin, streptavidin or biotin.
21. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 15, wherein L₂ is a moiety covalently attached to a solid support.
22. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 15, wherein L₂ is a linear poly(arginine) of D- and/or L-arginine with 6-15 arginine residues, an oligomer of 6-50 subunits wherein at least one subunit has an attached guanidine group or a peptide having an RKKRRQRRR amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:1).
- 23-43 (cancelled)

44. (previously presented) A method for detecting a protein of interest, wherein the protein of interest is fused to a mutant of a human AGT, the method comprising:

(a) contacting the AGT fusion protein with a compound of formula (1) according to claim 1; and

(b) detecting the AGT fusion protein using label L₁ and/or L₂ in a system designed for recognizing and/or handling the label.

45. (previously presented) The method according to claim 44, wherein in the compound of formula (1) L₂ is a solid support, and the AGT fusion protein contacted with the compound of formula (1) is separated from the compound of formula (1) by filtration or centrifugation or separation of magnetic beads.

46. (previously presented) The method according to claim 44, wherein in the compound of formula (1) L₁ is one member and L₂ the other member of two interacting chromophores or fluorophores, wherein energy can be transferred nonradiatively through dynamic or static quenching, and the AGT fusion protein is detected by fluorescence.

47. (previously presented) The method according to claim 44 for detecting a protein of interest, wherein the protein of interest is fused with a mutant of a human AGT, comprising:

(a) contacting the mutant of the human AGT fusion protein with a mixture of

(i) a compound of formula (1) wherein R₁ additionally comprises R₅, wherein R₅ is a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl,

cycloalkenyl or heterocyclyl group which does not react with the mutant AGT; and

(ii) another compound of formula (1), which reacts with the mutant AGT fusion protein; and

(b) detecting the mutant AGT fusion protein using the label in a system designed for recognizing and/or handling the label.